



Santa Clara Police

Training Flash



Santa Clara County Human Trafficking Protocol

The Santa Clara County Police Chief's Association published their Law Enforcement Human Trafficking Protocol. The protocol establishes a standard operating procedure for all law enforcement officers and dispatchers within Santa Clara County. It emphasizes collaboration with service providers and nongovernmental organizations to protect and provide emotional, physical, and legal support for victims while investigating and prosecuting human traffickers to the fullest extent of the law.

Often, calls for help do not directly relate to trafficking and victims rarely self-identify. Trafficking may be present in a variety of calls for citizens such as citizen complaints, child abuse, domestic violence, missing person, prostitution, sexual assault, or kidnapping. To help identify possible trafficking investigations, dispatchers and officers are urged to ask follow-up questions as specified in the county protocol.

Officers shall use due diligence to identify all victims of human, labor, and sex trafficking, regardless of citizenship, whenever they come in contact with a person who has been: deprived of their personal liberty, minor who has engaged in commercial sex acts, person suspected of violating 647(a) or (b), or a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault which can intersect with trafficking. If there are indicators of trafficking, the following can be documented:

- Signs of trauma, malnutrition, or poor care
- Indicators of prostitution (condoms, multiple cell phones, lingerie, sex advertisements, large sums of money, etc)
- Underage victims, missing persons, runaways, afraid to talk or communication is controlled by another person
- Doesn't have freedom of movement, control of their government ID, or security measures are used to control the person

The following factors shall not influence an officer's decision to arrest or further investigate a trafficking case:

- Victims desire not to prosecute, complicit in their exploitation, defends exploiter, or relationship with suspect
- Victim may have committed crimes, criminal history, antagonistic or uncooperative attitude
- Immigration status, emotional state, or sobriety

Sex trafficking cases should be treated as a sexual assault investigation. Human and labor trafficking should also be thoroughly investigated. Notify your patrol supervisor and appropriate county resources concerning investigations regarding trafficking.

This is just an abridged training flash covering some of the major points of the protocol. **Please read the 2020 Santa Clara County - LE HT Protocol attached to this training flash. This can also be found in K: drive under County Protocols.**



